

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council

Meeting Number 122 (05-12)

May 7, 2012

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. The May meeting was held at the new Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Joppa, MD. Meeting Number 122 was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Chairperson Mullis welcomed special guests Andrew Tress, new legislative aide to Council President Billy Boniface and Alex Rawls of Planning and Zoning. Local council members present were Gloria Moon, Paula A. Mullis, Betty Byrne, Yvonne Baldwin, JoAnn Macdonald, Ron Sollod, James B. Lyons, III and Doris G. Carey. Members Absent were Vincent Rabenau and Bob Frisch. Gloria Moon moved and Ron Sollod seconded that the May minutes be approved.

The Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Corporal Vetrone of the Sheriff's Office reported that robberies in Sector 10 were down by 63 percent. He reported that burglaries are up; however, burglaries of motor vehicles are down. The Town Hall meeting that was recently held in the new building was very successful, with standing room only. Corporal Vetrone reserved the meeting room at the Southern Precinct for the community council to use for at least the next two years. The chair thanked him for his assistance and presentation.

Alex Rawls, Department of Planning and Zoning

The Department of Planning and Zoning is in the process of developing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to promote increased bicycle and pedestrian activity and to help Harford County to be a healthier community. The department will take a year to complete the plan and is soliciting input from county residents. To check the progress of the planning process, go to www.harfordcountymd.gov/planningZoning. The department has held three meetings to date, including an open house where citizens provided input. Mr. Rawls would like for the community to give input on where there are dangerous lanes, cross walks and intersections. In the near

future, the staff will begin doing field reviews of proposed routes with DPW and SHA. He shared the following dates that may be of interest to the community: May 9, National Bike to School Day; May 18, National Bike to Work Day; June 12-14, East Coast Greenway Tour (starts in Maine and will end in Florida). The tour riders will have a stay-over in Havre de Grace. Sue Heselton and Gloria Moon noted that there is a Joppa/Joppatowne Master Plan, and it is already full of trails where bike and pedestrian paths can be planned. Paula Mullis thanked Mr. Rawls for his presentation.

During the meeting Delegate Susan McComas joined the meeting and was recognized by the chair.

Independence Day Parade – Dianna Guthrie and Sue Heselton

The Joppatowne Carnival will be held at the Joppatowne Plaza Shopping Center on May 21-28. This year marks the 300 year anniversary of the founding of the Seaport of Joppa Town as a colony. The carnival is the only fundraiser for the parade. The parade is expected to raise over \$16,000 which will pay for band participants as well as awards. Dianna and Sue said they will need as many volunteers as possible to work in the ticket booths in three hour shifts. If you can help, contact Dianna at 410-679-9399. Dianna said that she has an agreement with Redners' to keep carnival goes off the Redner's parking lot. She also mentioned that if you know anyone who would like to join the parade to let her know. Jamie Costello will be the parade commentator again this year. Sheriff Jesse Bane will be the grand marshal. Councilman Dion Guthrie gave a special thanks to Dianna and Sue for their outstanding work on the parade.

County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie

Councilman Dion Guthrie thanked those who attended the recent budget meeting at Bel Air High School. He said the group made a great impression on the County Council members, and the council got the point on how community members were feeling. Dion and Joe Woods will draft legislation to take the waste transfer station funding out of the budget. Dion mentioned that the County Executive can do some creative budgeting if he wants to keep the Plecker's property in the budget. Dion and Joe met with Col Ortiz at Ortiz's request. There was

disagreement between what the Col and County Executive said about the waste to energy plant. However, the plan to use the Plecker's property for the waste transfer station is not a done deal yet. The plan must be sent to the County Council for approval by amending the Solid Waste Management Plan to include this property.

James B. Lyons, III discussed how the waste transfer station could adversely impact traffic and slow down the response time for the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company. He went on to say that their call rates will stand up to any paid fire company. Several council members and community members agreed with Jim and spoke of how the volunteer fire company saved their lives and homes. JoAnn Macdonald also spoke of how the fire company and EMS has had the best response and saved lives.

Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community

Paula Mullis said that the topic of conversation around Joppa/Joppatowne is the trash transfer station. She would like to keep the conversation going. She gave a special thanks to her daughter for the beautiful work that the Garden Club is doing in Joppatowne. Susan McComas stated that Bob Cooper indicated that only recyclables will be handled at the waste transfer station. All other trash will be removed at the end of the day. In addition to all the truck traffic, cars will be able to go to the waste dump also. Gloria Moon said that she is looking forward to Dion telling the group about the result of his meeting with the State's Attorney.

Jim Lyons also mentioned that renovations are going on at the fire hall. There will be state-of-the-art equipment in the building. The building can be rented for meetings and other activities. Ron Sollod noted that "Relay for Life" is coming. Funds collected will cover all forms of cancer service.

Betty Byrne mentioned that the Joppa-Magnolia Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary has a bingo lunch every second Monday at 11 a.m. and bingo every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. She noted that some of the Wednesday night regulars were here tonight.

Doris Carey mentioned that it is anticipated that the Towson building will be completed on the Harford Community College campus during the summer of 2014 and will be ready for occupancy for the fall 2014 academic year.

Paula Mullis thanked the Sheriff's Department again for allowing the local community council to meet in the building. She said that the community must stay involved. She also suggested that it would be good if the community council members and community members could walk in the parade.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Minutes by Doris Carey